

AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1949



STOURBRIDGE
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1950

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1949.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 12.7 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 11.3 for 1948. The Live Birth Rate was 15.0 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 17.6 for 1948. There were 2 Still-births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 21 per 1000 live births.

No serious outbreak of Infectious Diseases has occurred.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per acre	-	-	-	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1949)	-	-	-	3136
Number of inhabited houses	-	-	-	929
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.3
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£19,907
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£77

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

	M.	F.	Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.
Live Births } Legitimate Total	45	26 19	15.0
} Illegitimate	2	1 1	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total 2 ; Rate per 1000
Total (live and still-births) - - - - - 42.6

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1949 - - - - - 16.7

Deaths - 40--Males, 18 ; Females, 22 ;

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - - - - - 12.7

Registered Death Rate per 1000 - - - - - 11.2

Death Rate, England & Wales, 1949 - - - - - 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - - - - 1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

(per 1000 live births) - - - - - 21

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

England & Wales - - - - - 32 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - - - 4

Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 1.3

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	1

Ages at which deaths occurred (40).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
1	Nil	Nil	1	2	11	25

15 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,
and 6 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1948		1949	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	-	-	-	-
Influenza	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Cancer	-	-	3	4
Diabetes	-	-	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	-	5	2	3
Heart Disease	-	6	5	3
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	1	2
Bronchitis	-	2	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	1	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	1	-
Nephritis	-	-	-	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes	-	-	2	-
All other Causes	-	1	1	2
				4
TOTALS	-	18	16	18
			34	22
				40

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

As 1938

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

As 1938

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF
THE AREA.**

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,
Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations :

	Number of Specimens sent for Report -		2
	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria (Swabs)	1	Nil	1
Sputum	1	Nil	1

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz :

Health Centres;

Care of Mothers and Young Children;

Midwifery;

Health Visiting;

Home Nursing;

Vaccination and Immunisation;

Ambulance Services;

Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare;

Domestic Help.

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.
(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.
3. (i) Closet Accommodation.
(ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.
The particulars will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
(iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.
4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School--recently transferred to the County Council.
5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1949.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - - - 14

2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - - - - Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—
 - (a) By Owners - - - - Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners - - - - Nil.

(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - - - Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - - - Nil.

(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - - - Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit - - - - Nil.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

- (a) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1949) - - - Nil.
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein - - - Nil.
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein - - - Nil.
- (b) Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year - - - Nil.
- (c) (1) Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year - - - Nil.
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases - - Nil.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding - - - Nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk Supply ;
- (b) Meat and other foods.

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.

- (e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1949.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.										Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital.	Deaths		
		under 1 year	to 2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	to 5 yrs.	5 yrs.	to 10 yrs.	10 yrs.	15 yrs.	20 yrs.	35 yrs.	45 yrs.		
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	6	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough	12	-	4	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	9	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	28	-	6	5	4	3	4	4	3	1	-	1	4	-	-

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS, 1949.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory		Respira- tory.		Non- Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 ,,"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 ,,"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 ,,"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 ,,"	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 ,,"	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 ,,"	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 to 55 ,,"	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 to 65 ,,"	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	-

Arrangements have been made with the County Education Authorities for immunisation of Children against Diphtheria. The School Doctor treats the children with a Prophylactic provided by his authority. 59 Children were "immunised"—51 under 5 years and 8 of school-age. Re-inforcing doses 32.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1949 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	4	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Auth- orities (Transfer of En- forcement) Order, 1938 ..	2	33	12	2	—	2
(b) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ..		42	16	4	—	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5						5
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	6						6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7						7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8						8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9						9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	10						10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	11	2	2	—	—		11
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	12						12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13						13
TOTAL ..		2	2	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report OF THE Sanitary Inspector For the Year 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you in an abbreviated form my report for the Year 1949.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	912	}
Houses provided with Pan Closets	-	5	
Houses provided with Earth Closets	-	12	
Houses provided with separate Water Closets	-	793	}
Houses provided with Water Closets in common	-	119	
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets	-	17	

The houses not provided with Water Closets are situate in an outlying part of your district which is extensively used for Fire Clay Mining. Sewer accommodation is not practicable.

Removal of Household Refuse and Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Refuse Removal is carried out by Direct Labour. Disposal is by Tipping which has not been entirely controlled. Unauthorised deposits of inflammable material on the Tip have resulted in danger from fire. Several outbreaks caused by wilful mischief have been dealt with. A modern Horse Drawn Removal Cart with sliding covers has been purchased and is now in use. Collection is bi-weekly. Sanitary Dust Bins and Covers of Galvanized Iron are in use at all Houses with the exception of those having Pan or Earth Closets.

4 Houses have been provided with Sanitary Dust Bins for the household ashes and refuse—3 as a result of Informal Notices and 1 Statutory Notice. Up to the present no difficulty has arisen with Owners over the provision of Dust Bins.

3½ Tons of Waste Paper were collected, baled and sold. On account of the difficulty in disposing of the paper after preparation for sale collection had to be discontinued early in the year.

Housing.

The number of Houses is now 929—a decrease of one over 1948. One house incapable of repair at a reasonable cost was demolished voluntarily by the Landlord. No new houses have been erected, neither by the Council nor by Private Enterprise. Owing to the shortage of suitable building sites a scheme for the erection of 48 flats in 3 storeys has been prepared. Negotiations for the purchase of the land did not prove successful. A Compulsory Purchase Order was therefore made which is awaiting the decision of the Minister of Health. Pending the erection of further Council Houses no licences can be issued to persons who wish to provide their own homes. The waiting list for houses contains about 130 bona-fide applications.

Selection of Tenants of Council Houses is made with the aid of a simple "Points System" which is useful in sorting out the most urgent applications.

Housing Conditions.

The houses in your District may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1	.
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	316	
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	526	929
Houses with more than three Bedrooms			86	

One "unfit" house has been demolished, viz. :—No. 6 Stamford Road. Statutory Action was not necessary.

The following Houses have been dealt with. By Statutory Notices :—6 Villa Street, 38 High Street and 139 High Street. By informal notices :—25, 67, 75 Brettell Lane, 2 Vale Street, 1 Vale Street, 2 Canal Street (closed by the Owners), 20, 48, 83 Collis Street, 6 Stamford Road (demolished), 104, 124 King William Street, 18 Box Hill, 1 Dial Lane.

Repairs still present a problem both on account of the shortage of materials and the very high cost which may be disproportionate to the Rent.

Nuisances, etc. within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 were dealt with at 43 Houses.

Overcrowding.—There is little overcrowding on the scale laid down in the Housing Act, 1936. The average number of persons per house is 3.3. A number of houses are occupied by two families generally related to each other. Separate accommodation for newly married couples is very difficult to obtain.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

Water Supply.

With one exception all premises receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The principal Bore Holes (at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow) are situated in your District. Samples of Water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are taken at frequent intervals. The Laboratories are provided by the County Council. The Reports indicate a certain Hardness but otherwise the Water is of excellent quality for drinking. Close co-operation is maintained with the Engineer to the Board.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

The inspection of Cowsheds passed to the Ministry of Agriculture on October 1st, 1949.

Retailers of Milk. Milk & Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations 1949.

Very little milk is now sold loose from Retailers cans. The bulk is bottled and is retailed as delivered by the wholesalers. It consists wholly of designated milk, viz.:—Sterilised, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested. “Secondary” Licences have been issued as follows:—2 each in respect of Sterilised, Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk. The Principal Licences were issued by the City of Birmingham and the County Borough of Wolverhampton. 11 Shopkeepers have been licensed to retail “Sterilised” Milk all of which is sold in bottles as delivered.

Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

No Slaughter-house is used in this District. Three Retail Butchers are supplied with Meat from a Central Depot at Brierley Hill which is controlled by the Ministry of Food.

Inspections of live animals and carcases are carried out there by qualified inspectors.

Other foods are retailed in the following shops, viz.:—Grocers 4, General 10 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Greengrocers, etc. 6 (2 lock-up shops and 4 part shops and part dwelling houses), Sweets and Tobacco 2 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Fried Fish 3 (part shops and part dwelling houses), Cafes 1.

Food poisoning outbreaks—Nil.

Unsound Food—The following food, unfit for human consumption, was surrendered and destroyed, viz. :—44 tins assorted foods ; 2 tins Dutch Brawn and 15lbs. Bacon.

Food & Drugs Act 1938 Sec. 15.

The model Bye-Laws suggested by the Ministry of Food for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food sold or intended for sale for human consumption have received consideration. Subject to the approval of the Minister of Food it has been decided to adopt them.

Ice Cream.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in your District. Licences for sale by retail have been issued as follows :—Shops 5, Cafe 1.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

Disinfestation of the following premises has been undertaken, viz. :—Hospitals 1, Factories 3, Dwelling Houses 2, Refuse Tip 1. The work was carried out by an Operator employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council by arrangement with Mr. H. J. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector. The assistance has been appreciated. The Sewers have not been tested. Previous tests proved conclusively that Rats were not present and that on account of the diameter and fall they could not find means of existence.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

Measures have been taken to prevent excessive emissions of smoke from the chimneys of 2 factories. One complaint was made during the year and received attention as soon as a request was made.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

Sanitary Inspector.

August, 1950.